HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Property Address: 2001 14th Street, NW Agenda

Landmark/District: U Street HD X Consent Calendar Meeting Date: April 25, 2013 X Concept Review

H.P.A. Number: 13-152 X Alteration

Staff Reviewer: Kim Elliott New Construction

Bob Biroonak of Art Display Company, on behalf of owner Thomas Tsianakas, seeks conceptual design review for a retractable rooftop canopy at 2001 14th Street at the Lost Society restaurant.

Property Description

Built in 1905 as the 14th Street Savings Bank, this property has had numerous alterations over the years and been adapted for retail, commercial, and restaurant uses. Currently, the Lost Society roof deck occupies the second story and roof deck.

Proposal

In 2011, Lost Society erected a roof top tent without a permit, which was subsequently cited as illegal construction by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs on September 14, 2011. The applicant has since been working with HPO to finalize a design for a rooftop canopy. The proposed design is a retractable awning system mounted to the side party wall of the neighboring (non-contributing) building and extending 16'-6" over the roof deck. The awning will be Sunbrella canvas material.

Evaluation

The retractable rooftop canopy works well here because it eliminates the need for any additional structure at the corners of the roof deck, minimizes the appearance of this rooftop accessory, and allows for the awning to be fully retracted during non-business hours, reinforcing that it is a temporary structure. In addition to the specifications presented in the drawings, it is recommended that the housing for the awning mounting be painted to match the brick face.

This proposed design is consistent with other rooftop canopies that have been approved by the Board, and is a great improvement to the current condition of the illegal dilapidated canvas and plastic structure.

Recommendation

The HPO recommends that the Review Board:

- Approve the proposed retractable rooftop canopy
- Advise the applicant that no side sheets should be attached.